

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS:

Claims 7, 11, and 12 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 6, 8-10, and 18 are amended. Claims 1-6, 8-10, and 13-20 are pending in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to a solar cell module using solar cell elements including a surface electrode on the light receiving surface thereof and a photovoltaic power generator using this. (Applicant's specification, at p. 1, lines 4-7).

CLAIM OBJECTIONS:

Claim 11 is objected to because the area of the contact surface represented by  $S_2$  is not described in the relationship. This objection is moot due to the cancellation of this claim.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112:

Claims 6 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Office states that the term "a great number" in claim 6 is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. In response, Applicant deleted "a great number" from claim 6. Withdrawal of this rejection is thus respectfully requested.

The Office states that the term "generally identical" in claim 18 is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. In response, Applicant changes "generally identical" to --identical--. Withdrawal of this rejection is thus respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 11-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshimine et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0199279) in view of Murakami (U.S. Patent No. 5,380,371). This rejection is moot with respect to claims 11 and 12 due to the cancellation of these claims. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection as to claims 1, 3, 4, and 13.

Claims 1-6 and 13 of the present application take priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 from Japanese Patent Application No. 2004-173177, which was filed June 10, 2004.

Since the Applicant's priority date predates Yoshimine's filing date of January 28, 2005, the rejection under § 103(a) based on Yoshimine in view of Murakami can be overcome by perfecting Applicant's claim of priority. A claim of priority is perfected by filing a certified priority document, filing an English translation thereof if the document is not in English and after the examiner establishes that the priority document satisfies the enablement and description requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. MPEP 706.02(b).

Submitted herewith is a certified English translation of the priority document. Applicant respectfully submits that the priority document satisfies the enablement and description requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. As such, Applicant has perfected the claim of priority, and withdrawal of this rejection with respect to claims 1, 3, 4, and 13 is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshimine in view of Murakami, as applied to claims 1, 3, 4, and 11-13, in further view of Fukawa et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0200522). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As discussed above, claims 2 and 5 of the present application take priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 from Japanese Patent Application No. 2004-173177, which was filed June 10, 2004. Withdrawal of the rejection with respect to claims 2 and 5 is respectfully requested, due to Applicant's perfected claim of priority.

Claims 6-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshimine in view of Murakami, as applied to claims 1, 3, 4, and 11-13, in further view of Fujii et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0178057). This rejection is moot with respect to claim 7 due to the cancellation of this claim. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection as to claims 6 and 8-10.

As discussed above, claim 6 of the present application take priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 from Japanese Patent Application No. 2004-173177, which was filed June 10, 2004. Withdrawal of the rejection with respect to claim 6 is respectfully requested, due to Applicant's perfected claim of priority.

Claim 8, as amended, is as follows:

The solar cell module according to claim 1, wherein trajectories drawn by moving edge lines of a contact surface between the bus bar electrodes and/or finger electrodes and the semiconductor region in the direction of an electric current flowing through the bus bar electrodes and/or finger electrodes include in at least a part thereof a region where the direction of a tangent line of the trajectory is not coincident with the electric current flowing direction, wherein the edge lines of the contact surface between the bus bar electrodes and/or finger electrodes and the semiconductor region include a rugged contour in a planar direction of the solar cell element.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references cannot render claim 8 obvious, because the cited references fail to teach or suggest "the edge lines of the

contact surface between the bus bar electrodes and/or finger electrodes and the semiconductor region include a rugged contour in a planar direction of the solar cell element."

The Office relies on Fujii for disclosing the edge lines. However, Fujii merely discloses the semiconductor substrate is formed with protrusions and recesses. (see e.g., Fujii, paragraph [0057] and Figures 1 and 4).

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references cannot render claim 8 obvious, because the cited references fail to teach or suggest each and every claim limitation. Claims 9 and 10 depend from claim 8 and cannot be rendered obvious for at least the same reasons as claim 8. Withdrawal of this rejection is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 14-17, 19, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshimine in view of Fukawa. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 14 is as follows:

A solar cell module comprising:

a translucent panel;

a back surface protective member;

a plurality of sheet-like solar cell elements that are arranged between the translucent panel and the back surface protective member and electrically connected to one another;

a plurality of wiring members for electrically interconnecting adjacent solar cell elements of the plurality of the solar cell elements;  
and

connecting members for electrically interconnecting the plurality of wiring members,

wherein the connecting members are disposed between non-light-receiving surfaces of the solar cell elements and the back surface protective member.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references cannot render claim 14 obvious, because the cited references fail to teach or suggest "the connecting members are disposed between non-light-receiving surfaces of the solar cell elements and the back surface protective member."

The Office at p. 13, lines 17-20 of the Office Action states,

"Fukawa discloses connecting members (transverse connection line) for interconnecting wiring members (10 in Fig. 7). Fukawa also discloses the wiring, connecting and wiring members are inside the solar cell module, which would infer between non-light receiving surface and back surface [0107]."

Applicant respectfully disagrees. Fukawa merely discloses that the wiring connecting and wiring members are inside the solar cell module. Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that there is no inference between non-light receiving surface and back surface.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references cannot render claim 14 obvious, because the cited references fail to teach or suggest each and every claim limitation. Claims 15-17, 19, and 20 depend from claim 14 and cannot be rendered obvious for at least the same reasons as claim 14. Withdrawal of this rejection is thus respectfully requested.

Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshimine in view of Fukawa, as applied to claims 14-17, 19, and 20, in further view of Ralph et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,156,967). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

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Claim 18 depends from claim 14 and is therefore, patentable over Yoshimine and Fukawa for at least the same reasons discussed above. Ralph cannot remedy the defect of Yoshimine and Fukawa and is not relied upon by the Office for such. Instead, the Office cites Ralph for disclosing wiring members (interconnectors, 206) as having the same width.

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references cannot render claim 18 obvious, because the cited references fail to teach or suggest each and every claim limitation. Withdrawal of this rejection is thus respectfully requested.

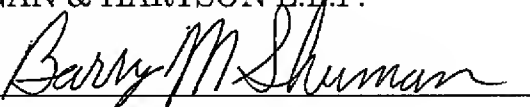
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (310) 785-4600 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,  
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

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